

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the application identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.116, and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

At the outset, Applicants note with appreciation the withdrawal of all rejections set forth in the previous Official Action.

By the above amendments, claims 1 and 9 have been amended for clarification purposes by deleting the phrase "each of R⁴ and R⁵ independently is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an aralkyl group, or an aryl group; otherwise a set of R⁴ and R⁵, a set of R³ and R⁴ or a set of R³ and R⁵ are combined to form a ring." Entry of the above amendments is proper at least because they place the application in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal. See M.P.E.P. §714.12.

In the Official Action, claims 1, 5, 9, 10, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for referring to the R⁴ and R⁵ substituents which were deleted from the claims in the Amendment filed November 20, 2003. As discussed above, claims 1 and 9 have been amended to delete the references to the R⁴ and R⁵ substituents. Accordingly, withdrawal of the above rejection is respectfully requested.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions concerning this paper of the application in general,
the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 8, 2004

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